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Department of Health Care Services
LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



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Supervision Requirements

****PLEASE REVIEW THE LEA MEDI-CAL BILLING OPTION PROVIDER MANUAL FOR COMPLETE LEA PROGRAM AND POLICY INFORMATION****

Q1. Can a certified public health nurse employed by an LEA supervise licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) and trained health care aides?

- A. No, LVNs and trained health care aides providing specialized health care services must be supervised by a licensed physician, registered credentialed school nurse or certified public health nurse employed by the State Department of Health Care Service. Although a certified public health nurse may be employed by an LEA to provide specialized physical health care services, that public health nurse is not qualified to supervise LVNs or trained health care aides who provide specialized health care services. Refer to the LEA Provider Manual [loc ed serv nurs](#) (page 3) for supervision requirements.

Q2. In regards to the Trained Health Care Aides Billing, What constitutes "Supervision"? Is the Nurse required to be present?

- A. Trained Health Care Aides require supervision by a licensed physician or surgeon, registered credentialed school nurse or certified public health nurse to provide school health aide treatment services. The supervising practitioner must see each patient at least once, have some input into the type of care provided, and review the patient after treatment has begun. The supervisor specifies the level of supervision required, based on professional judgment, and advises the IEP team of this recommendation. Supervision can be (a) immediate – “the supervisor shall be physically present while a procedure is administered;” (b) direct – “the supervisor shall be present in the same building and available for consultation and/or assistance;” or (c) indirect – “the supervisor shall be available... either in person or through electronic means...” (5 CCR § 3051.12 (b) (3) (D)).

Q3. My LEA has several credentialed speech-language pathologists (SLPs) being supervised by licensed SLPs. What exactly are the supervision requirements?

- A. The supervising practitioner must see each student at least once, have some input into the type of care provided, and review the student after treatment has begun. The supervising speech-language pathologist should periodically: observe assessments, evaluation and therapy; observe the preparation and planning activities; review student records; and monitor and evaluate assessment and treatment decisions of the credentialed speech-language pathologist. Supervision should be appropriate to the level of experience of the credentialed practitioner. These supervision requirements are also applicable to credentialed audiologists, who must be supervised by licensed

audiologists. Refer to the [loc ed serv hear](#) and [loc ed serv spe](#) sections (page 4) in LEA Provider Manual for additional information.

Q4. My LEA has a credentialed speech-language pathologist with 20 years of experience and does not have a preliminary clear or professional clear services credential. Does the licensed speech-language pathologist still have to supervise this practitioner? What kind of supervision is required?

- A. Yes. Regardless of the years of experience a credentialed speech-language pathologist may have, a credentialed SLP without a preliminary clear SLP services credential or professional clear SLP services credential must be supervised by a licensed practitioner or a credentialed SLP with a professional clear services credential. Refer to the and [loc ed serv spe](#) (page 4) for supervision requirements.

Q5. Has there been legislation that changes the supervision requirements for credentialed speech-language pathologists?

- A. Yes, LEA providers can find additional policy guidance in Provider Policy Letter ([PPL 12-008](#)) on the LEA Program website.

Q6. What constitutes supervision for a credentialed speech-language pathologist or audiologist? Is it someone in the practitioner's chain of command or just a resource?

- A. A supervising practitioner must be individually involved with patient care and accept responsibility for the actions of a credentialed speech-language pathologist or credentialed audiologist under his or her supervision. The amount and type of supervision required should be consistent with the skills and experience of the practitioner and with the standard of care necessary to provide appropriate patient treatment. The supervising practitioner must see each patient at least once, have some input into the type of care provided, and review the patient after treatment has begun. They must be available by telephone during the workday for consultation. Annual duties of the supervising practitioner are specified in the LEA Provider Manual, [loc ed serv hear](#) (page 5) and [loc ed serv spe](#) (page 4).